

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 8-20 were pending in this application, claims 9-18 having been withdrawn. Claims 9-18 have now been cancelled, and claims 1, 5, 19 and 20 have been amended hereby to more clearly recite features of the present invention. Support for the Amendment to each of the amended claims can be found in, for example, Figure 1 of the present application. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 19 and 20 will be pending. For the reasons stated below, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Morikawa. To the extent this ground of rejection might still be applied to claims presently pending in this application, it is respectfully traversed.

Morikawa discloses a stationary in-line mixer comprising a plurality of disks bearing a plurality of different hole or groove arrangements stacked one upon another between fluid inlets and an outlet to induce a rotational angular velocity to fluid streams. As is clearly depicted in the figures of the Morikawa reference, grooves 11a, 11b, and 11c of disk 11 are arcuate. See also col. 2, lines 32-37 of Morikawa. In contrast, the claims of the present application as amended, recite that the channels of the claimed microfluidic mixer are arranged to be parallel with one another at least in the vicinity of the aperture. This feature is clearly shown in, for example, Figure 1 of the present application in which channels 13a and 13b are formed in substrate 10

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such that they are offset from each other but parallel with one another near the aperture. Clearly, arcuate grooves as described and shown by Morikawa cannot be parallel with one another anywhere, let alone near a fluid outlet. As such, the features recited in the amended claims, as set forth above, cannot be disclosed by Morikawa.

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the §102(b) rejection of the claims based on Morikawa be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

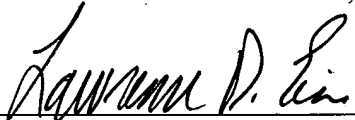
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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: None

LDE/dkp

Customer No. 28970

Document #: 1301522 v.1